

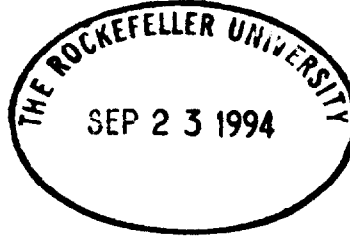


united nations educational, scientific and cultural organization
organisation des nations unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture
organización de las naciones unidas para la educación, la ciencia y la cultura

7, place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris 07 SP

The Director-General

reference: DG/2.3/94-1072



telephone: (33.1) 45.68.10.00
telex: 204461 Paris
270602 Paris
telefax: (33.1) 47.34.85.57

14 SEP. 1994

Dear Professor Lederberg,

I read with great interest the Interim Report on improving access to scientific resources ("UNESCO Scientific Channel") prepared by the group of experts under your leadership and wish to thank both the members of the group and their Chairman most sincerely for the task accomplished.

The report proposes pragmatic recommendations which, if implemented, will open up a new era in global scientific communications and bring spectacular benefits to those scientists who find themselves in "information isolation".

I am particularly pleased to note that the recommendations follow the same main lines as those of the reorganization of our information systems and services currently under way at UNESCO (use of INTERNET, CD-ROM, electronic publishing and archiving, telenet sessions, etc.). An intersectoral group has already been set up in the Secretariat under the chairmanship of Mr A. Badran, Acting Deputy Director-General and Assistant Director-General for Science, in order to start the work recommended by your group and co-ordinate it with other initiatives of UNESCO.

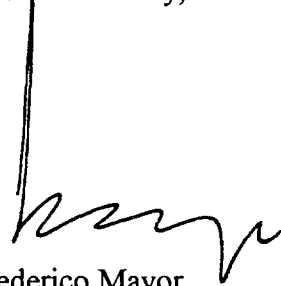
I also intend to set up an international advisory panel of high-level experts in the field of scientific communications and should be honoured if you would agree to chair it. Mr Kotchetkov will be the Secretary of the Panel, the first meeting of which should take place as early as possible in 1995 in Paris. If you agree to this proposal, we could start working jointly on the composition of the Panel and agenda of its first meeting.

Professor Joshua Lederberg,
President-Emeritus
The Rockefeller University
1230 York Avenue
NEW YORK, NY 10021-6399
USA

I was touched and encouraged by the wish expressed by you and your colleagues to work together with UNESCO on the implementation of the project and to assist us in seeking the necessary funding support. You can of course use the concise report of your group as you deem appropriate for that purpose. I am submitting the main recommendations formulated in your report to the next session of the Executive Board. In addition, I have asked Mr. Badran to have it disseminated to our field offices and members of the UNESCO Committee for Information Resources Development (CIRD). We shall also make the report known through our Office of Public Information and the UNESCO Sources publication.

Yours sincerely,

Thanks.
Inside



Federico Mayor